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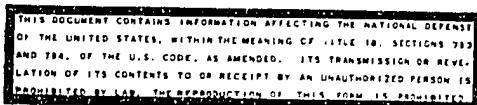
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE Het Nieuwsblad voor Sumatra.

HVA PLANTATIONS IN JAVA AND SUMATRA, 1951

[Comment: This report on plantations operated by HVA (Handelsvereniging Amsterdam, Amsterdam Commercial Association) in Java and Sumatra during 1951 was originally published by the Netherlands periodical Financieel Dagblad. It gives a table showing that, in general, production in 1951 was higher than in 1949 and 1950.]

The operation costs of HVA Sumatra plantations were much higher during 1951 than was expected. This was due to increased maintenance costs imposed by strikes early in 1951 and the wage increases of October 1951 which were made retroactive to February 1951. Extra benefits were also paid low-ranking administrative personnel and workers. Another increased expense item came in the price increases of commodities allocated as pay to the low-ranking administrative personnel and the workers. This was particularly true in the increased price of rice. These increased operation costs together with the decline in the selling prices of the products have caused serious concern to the HVA board.

During 1951, HVA owned four fiber plantations, four palm oil plantations, three tea plantations, and two rubber plantations. The Pulau Tiga plantation was returned to HVA control in April 1952. This plantation, which had been well kept prior to the war, has suffered from exhaustive cultivation. The HVA board decided not to put back into operation two other plantations, a rubber plantation and a palm oil plantation, located in Atjeh.

During 1951, new plantings were made only on a moderate scale because of a shortage of workers and illegal occupation of plantation grounds, a practice which still persists.

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There was no change in the number of the Java plantations managed by HVA during 1951, which consisted of three sugar plantations, one tapioca plantation, one tapioca and fiber plantation and one rubber plantation. Sugar production was only 66,235 tons as compared with the previous estimate of 76,000 tons. This was due largely to the large-scale theft of sugar cane and cane field fires. Labor troubles resulted in a delayed harvest which resulted in losses. Sugar cane plantings for the 1951 - 1952 season amounted to over 6,717 hectares as compared with 6,600 hectares for the previous season. The monsoon damaged all of these plantations and the theft of sugar cane continues. Estimates on the coming harvest have dropped from the original 79,000 tons of sugar to 67,000 tons. Only 4,626 hectares out of a total cultivable area of some 14,000 hectares have been returned to HVA control. The rest is leased.

The theft of cassava has been even worse than that of sugar cane. Of the 1950 - 1951 crops at Turen and at Djengkol, 59 percent and 23 percent, respectively, was stolen.

The total cassava crop processed in 1951 amounted to only 3,552 tons, as compared with the original estimate of 12,760 tons. The 1951 - 1952 crop at Djengkol amounted to 564 tons as compared with the original estimate of 3,500 tons. The HVA board decided not to make any further plantings either at Turen or Djengkol.

Further increase of plantation operation costs have been brought about by increased ground rent, railway freight rates, and wages. Although labor productivity has improved a bit here and there, generally speaking it is still below the normal level.

The following table shows the production of HVA plantations in Java and Sumatra during 1949, 1950, and 1951 (in tons):

<u>Java Plantations</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Sugar	39,011	50,89	66,235
Tapioca	--	953	3,552
Fiber	--	47	157
Rubber	--	58	157
<u>Sumatra Plantations</u>			
Fiber	1,948	5,690	10,742
Palm oil	26,564	22,111	11,578
Palm kernels	7,715	6,243	6,413
Tea	1,547	1,847	3,343
Rubber	4,084	3,443	2,926

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